



Iraqi Soldiers receive guidance, advice

Story and photo by Spc.
James P. Hunter
MNC-I PAO

Hidden by the darkness of the dimly lit streets, a convoy makes its way through the streets of Baghdad toward a house where suspected insurgents are operating.

Besides a dog going through the trash piling up on the streets, it seems unusually quiet. No one is wandering the streets at this hour of the night. The Soldiers have a great opportunity to succeed.

They approach their objective, dismount and move forward.

Into the house, they sweep and clear each room, and ultimately detain insurgents planning a future attack on coalition forces.

American advisors nod their heads in satisfaction as they watched the Soldiers perform their mission with few flaws.

These Soldiers weren't American troops though. They were Iraqi Soldiers based out of Al Hillah with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Infantry Division.

The Iraqi Soldiers were trained to perform such missions by their highly-skilled counterparts—Iraqi Special Operations Forces Soldiers.

Working along side the Iraqi-

instructors is an 11-man Military Transition Team made up of senior officers and noncommissioned officers of the U.S. Army assigned to train, assist and advise Iraqi Army battalions. Each team throughout Iraq is assigned to a battalion.



Iraqi Army Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Infantry Division, pull security during foot patrol training. The Military Transition Team helps train and advise the Iraqi's.

The teams consist of medical, logistical, communications, administration, intelligence, Headquarters Support Company and fire support NCO's and officers.

The more training and operations the Iraqi Soldiers conduct, the better they become at gathering information from intelligence reports, equipping their troops, planning their missions and executing them with little to no flaws, said Staff Sgt. Tom Miller, senior scout, 2nd

platoon, Troop A, 1-10 Cavalry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The objective of the MTT is to train and advise Iraqi battalions so the Iraqi's can eventually take over their battle space, said Master Sgt. Brian Klamer, intelligence noncommissioned

basic language training.

Once all the training was complete, they deployed to Iraq ready to properly train and advise the Iraqi's, said Klamer.

When the MTT started, U.S. Special Forces initially trained the Iraqi Special Operations Forces, said Miller.

The Iraqi Special Operation Soldiers became instructors to train the regular Iraqi Army troops, he added.

The Iraqi instructors are very knowledgeable and bring a lot of battle experience to their training, said Klamer.

The instructors train their troops, but for the most part, U.S. troops are advising the Iraqi's training, said Miller.

"We don't try and take control of the unit," Klamer said. "Once we've taken control, we've failed in what we're here to do."

Klamer said the Iraqi's have their own way of conducting their training and operations, but if his team feels what they are doing won't work, they suggest and discuss different means of conducting the operation.

On a normal day, the team starts off with classroom instructions, going over various scenarios seen in Iraq.

Once the team has grasped the classroom instruction, they move into "hands-on" training.

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Aerobics instructor motivates early morning class

Story and photo by Pfc. Sean C. Finch

MNC-I PAO

"For those of us living in camps like Victory, you have to take advantage of the many ways to let off steam, and that's what this is," said Staff Sgt. Juanita Corea, terrain analyst team, noncommissioned officer in charge, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Corea, who stands only five-feet tall, carries with her and insurmountable presence and motivation. She has been leading an aerobics class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday since November of last year, at Camp Victory's recreation center.

With specially made cardio-music compact discs, which are geared to get people moving, and an attitude that is contagious and wild, Corea really gets people's day started on the right foot, said Sgt. Maj. Sal Katz, logistics sergeant major, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

"If you are thinking about coming in and skipping out on some physical training, think again," said Katz. "I had no idea that I was going to get smoked this morning."

Corea has been doing aerobics workouts for almost a decade and is very proficient in teaching them and getting people involved, said Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Davis, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, 72nd Signal Battalion, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

While the class began with less than 10 students in November, there are now more than 30 servicemembers who regularly attend, said Corea.

The class begins at 5 a.m., and runs a little more than an hour. "Some people would say 'no way am I getting up that early,'" said Corea. "Once I get started on it every morning, I am more than glad that I did."



Staff Sgt. Juanita Corea, terrain team, noncommissioned officer in charge, instructs aerobics during class at the recreation center, Wednesday.

The plan is to work the heart, lungs and all different muscle groups in the body, said Corea.

To get up in the morning is difficult for everyone. Sometimes there has to be a driving force behind dragging yourself out of bed to go and exercise, said Corea. But that is what this class is all about.

"Staff Sergeant Corea is proof that dynamite comes in small packages; I have never seen someone with so much energy and excitement," said Spc. Torgie M. Johnson, administrative clerk, Special Troops Battalion, Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

Sometimes the muscle burning sets in, and then Corea turns to the group and says no quitting, and everyone goes to another level of workout, said Johnson.

"I just love working out and getting other people charged, as a matter of fact, that's what gets me charged," said Corea.

Corea was born in Windsor, England, and moved to the United States when she was 15.

"I am happy that I get the opportunity to serve in the American Army and represent my country, family and myself in the best

see AEROBICS, page 4

Chaplain's Corner

The Sharpest Tool in the Shed



Charles M. Herring
Chaplain (Major)
MNC-I RSO

Shall the ax boast itself against him who chops with it? Or shall the saw exalt itself against him who saws with it? As if a rod could wield itself against those who lift it up, or as if a staff

could lift up, as if it were not wood! Isaiah 10:15

Are you the sharpest tool in the shed? I remember my dad had a tool shed right next to our big garden. For a young boy it was a "weapons room" of all sorts of wondrous weapons. If I wasn't playing with my imaginary space age weaponry, I was using tools as they were intended – mostly hoeing corn with my Dad. The first thing I learned was to sharpen my hoe

before I started going down those long corn rows hoeing the weeds between the stalks of growing corn.

One of the dangers we face as people of faith is to take credit for what God does in our lives. This was the exact problem of the Assyrians. At that time in history the Assyrians were a weak nation until God chose to bless them with the sharpest and most lethal army in the known world in order to use them as an instrument to punish the Israelites. However, the more God blessed them, the more secure they became in their own capability. When the farmers had high-quality crops, they credited their farming skills rather than God. When their army won victory after victory, their generals took the credit. When the nation experienced affluence and prosperity, the Assyrians attributed it to their military and political power. Finally, God pointed out the farce of their conclusions (Isaiah 10:5-19).

As a young pastor in a small church, I

often found it easier to handle poverty and weakness than wealth or strength. Poverty caused me to recognize my need for God. Prosperity persuaded me that I no longer require God. My weakness caused me to lean on the strong arms of God. Strength caused to declare myself self-sufficient. Scripture holds several examples of those who assumed they were self-sufficient, only to realize their poverty apart from God. Samson was the strongest person alive, but he forgot that his strength came from God. Once God removed his strength, Samson was reduced to a pitiful slave. Saul was the first king of Israel; yet when God removed His Spirit from this proud monarch, he became a paranoid, petty man, seeking counsel from witches and eventually committing suicide.

We must be careful how we handle the success God gives us! As we enjoy His blessing in our families, friends and careers, keep in mind that we are the sharpest tools in the Master's shed.

TRAINING

Their training leads them into their mission, because during their course of training the Iraqis are conducting their own missions, said Klamer.

Klamer said the Iraqi's are very good at such operations as raiding buildings and capturing insurgents.

With the support of some American forces, the Iraqis can set up a cordon and raid a building, he said. The senior leadership and other American troops watch as they conduct their mission.

Following the mission, the MTT conducts an after action report with the senior leadership, said Klamer. A group AAR is not conducted, because they want the leadership to intertwine their lessons learned into future training to sustain and improve certain areas of their missions.

The Iraqi instructors are great Soldiers, and their regular Army troops are getting better with each operation and training exercise, he said, but they

are not ready at every level to take complete control.

"One of the things (the Iraqi's)



During foot patrol training at an Iraqi Army base in Al Hillah, a Soldier with the 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 8th Infantry Division, pulls security.

never had before was an NCO corps. Generally, their officers lead everything," Klamer said. "We're working with the officers and trying to get the NCO's integrated into more of the planning and actually leading troops."

Some of the NCO's have been around since the Saddam regime and have plenty of experience to lead troops, Klamer added. They have nearly 15 years of military experience, but do not get the opportunity to train and lead troops.

The MTT team is also trying to intertwine medical, logistics, intelligence, HSC and communications into their military, which were a non-existent or poorly-executed element of their forces.

When they meet with their Iraqi counterparts, they discuss their current status.

The different elements make up their chain of command, said Klamer. Through their chain, they must be able to plan their missions thoroughly, request ammunition and supplies, and sustain the battalion's readiness.

"When they can receive an order for a mission, plan it entirely, sustain themselves and execute the missions without the assistance from the U.S., they'll be ready to take over operations," Klamer added.

From the VBC MP Desk ...

STOP MEANS STOP!

Since November 2005, the Victory Base Complex Military Police have issued one hundred and sixty seven Armed Forces Traffic Tickets for failure to stop at a STOP sign. This may seem like a small number over a 90 + day period, however, many of these tickets were written during hours of limited visibility or darkness. Victory Base Complex is indeed a large, and congested, base. A 24 hour base where large trucks, with limited visibility, share the road with bicycles and pedestrians wearing dark, non-reflective camouflage. When a soldier, civilian, or contractor deploys to Iraq they don't leave years of driving experience behind. Common sense driving needs to be everyone's Driving Rules of Engagement.

When coming back onto Victory Base Complex; security teams, PSDs, and patrols clear their weapons and place them into a "GREEN" status. However, those drivers don't always mentally bring their driving habits back into a "GREEN" status. Each and every vehicle must remember to obey the traffic and STOP signs. The other drivers on VBC expect these drivers to obey the posted traffic and STOP signs. They expect to take turns at the intersection. When vehicles are still driving in a "RED" status and running STOP signs this causes confusion, vehicle accidents and pedestrian injuries. Here are some Common Sense Driving Tips:

1. Obey all speed and traffic signs
2. Use your vehicle's directional signals
3. Come to a complete stop at all STOP signs
4. Drive defensively and courteously
5. Drive in a "GREEN" status on VBC
6. At intersections - Take turns
7. Yield to emergency vehicles (Fire, Medical, MP)
8. Yield to oncoming traffic and when entering roadways
9. Use a ground guide when backing an NTV or military vehicle
10. Drive safely and go home ALIVE!

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams



Multi-National Coalition Forces-Iraq
Human Relations/Equal Opportunity Office
and 205th MI Brigade
cordially invites you to attend
a Women's History Month Dinner
with guest speaker
Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead
Wednesday, the Fourteenth of March
6:30 p.m. in the
Al Faw Palace Ballroom
RSVP for CSM/Senior Enlisted Advisor COL/O6
by March 13
evy.lacy@iraq.centcom.army.mil
822-3532/3545

898th Medical Detachment (PM)

PRESENTS

UNIT FIELD SANITATION TEAM CERTIFICATION TRAINING

MARCH 27-30

WE HAVE 30 SEATS IN THIS
CLASS, THEY WILL BE GIVEN
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE.

TO RESERVE A SEAT OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION CONTACT:

SGT. CHRISTIA SKERBECK
christia.skerbeck@iraq.centcom.mil

or

STAFF SGT. JEFFREY NOELLE
jeffrey.noelle@iraq.centcom.mil

DSN 318-822-2851



WARNING!

STOP MEANS STOP!

OBEY THE TRAFFIC SIGNS !!

The life you save may be your
own. GO Home Alive!

AEROBICS

way I possibly know how,” said Corea.

This is Corea’s second deployment to Iraq and she has found changes in the quality of life and changes in her abilities to help others improve their own morale.

“The last time I was here, we didn’t have anywhere to do anything like this aerobics class and it would be a bleeding shame if we didn’t take advantage of this opportunity,” said Corea.

Corea has attended many aerobics programs in Heidelberg, Germany, where she is stationed and brought her experience to Iraq when she deployed.

“I just wanted to bring some of that energy down here to the people who crave it,” said Corea. “I may not be a certified instructor, but I like to offer everything I can to the people that I know I’ll see when we get back to Germany.”

The class is open to any and all who would like to drop in for a one time visit, or are aerobics fanatics. There is also an evening class that is available on the same days at 6:30 pm, for those who wish to sleep longer in the mornings, said Corea.

“Just come in to the gym in the morning and listen for the sounds of crazy people, that’ll be us,” concluded Corea, “We promise a good work-out, and a fun one.”

“Camera Beware: Personnel Claims for Electronic Items”

Ben Franklin once said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” In the Army, this maxim applies to so many things, from clearing weapons to wearing kevlar. From the perspective of personnel claims, the saying has been incorporated into the army regulations governing payment of losses which are incident to service in the military.

Personnel claims are allowed under Federal law which permits members of the uniformed services to make claims for the loss, destruction, damage or theft of personal property “incident to service”. This simple legal provision has given birth to hundreds of pages of regulations and guidance as to what is payable and what is not payable by the government. Claims officers are left to apply the legal principles to the facts and adjudicate these claims.

A great example of this has to do with the theft of valuable electronic items. I am talking about those things which make any deployment more bearable: laptops, cameras, MP3 players, handheld GPS systems, camcorders, PSP consoles, and the list goes on. These things improve our quality of life during downtime. From gaming to sending email to taking and sending pictures, electronic items are practically a military necessity. The factors that make those items so important for us to use on a daily basis make them a prime target for thieves. Not only are those comfort items highly valuable, but they are easily pilferable. In a split second, they can be tucked away and disappear.

From the perspective of the Claims Officer, it is always difficult to hear about the theft of valuables from your quarters and if it were simply up to me I would write a check on the government’s account. But army regulations require that “ounce of prevention.” Claims cannot be paid for the theft of valuable items which are left out in the open. Not only should electronics and valuables not be left out in the open, they must be locked up when you are not around them. If you are in a barracks, you need to store your valuables in a locked container. You may be surprised to learn that even if you are in a private trailer (as few of us are) this rule still applies since people other than yourself have keys to your quarters.

Do yourself a favor: lock up your electronics. If you are the victim of a theft after that, call or come into the Legal Services Office for help. We are here to help you.

The Tax Man Cometh!

Margaret Mitchell once said “Death and taxes and childbirth! There’s never any convenient time for any of them!” This may seem especially true when you’re deployed. However, the Tax Center is here to help with your questions, provide assistance filing for extensions, provide a Special Power of Attorney for filing taxes, as well as assist you in electronically filing your 1040EZ Federal Income Tax return and in preparing your individual State Income Tax return for mailing.

As a service member in Iraq, you generally are entitled, according to the I.R.S., to income exclusions and filing extensions. As a result, you generally are not required to file while in theater and may file up to 180 days after the last day you qualify for combat zone service. You can find additional information about extensions at www.irs.gov/individuals/index.html. Another option is to give someone you trust at home a Power of Attorney, which authorizes that person to file on your behalf.

However, if you wish to file your taxes or you have questions, you can stop by the Tax Center located in the Learning Center on Camp Victory, building 27b. As of March 13, the Tax Center will be available on a walk-in basis Monday and Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. You should bring with you your W-2’s and know the date you arrived in the combat zone (Kuwait).

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Friday



Sunny
High: 71 F
Low: 51 F

Saturday



Sunny
High: 72 F
Low: 51 F

Sunday



Sunny
High: 75 F
Low: 51 F

Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours
Camp Liberty Post Exchange
Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours
Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Sunday:

Protestant Service 7 and 8:45 a.m.
Catholic Mass 10:30 a.m.
Gospel Service Noon
Mormon (LDS) 2 p.m.
Episcopal 4 p.m.
Full Life Service 6 p.m.

Saturday:

7th Day Adventist 11 a.m.
Catholic Mass 8 p.m.
Mini-Chapel (Bldg. 2)

Friday:

Jewish Service 6:30 p.m.
Eastern Orthodox services:

Saturday:

Vespers 5 p.m.
Confession 5:30 p.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m.

Sunday:

Divine Liturgy 9 a.m.

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call:

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Client Services

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

MNC-I
presents
Builder's of Communities and Dreams
sponsored by
220 SIG BDE CNOCS
(FORC, POWER, AMERICA)
When: Friday, March 10, 2006
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Where: Al Faw Palace
Ballroom
Camp Victory, Iraq
Free Food
International,
Sustainability, Rebuilding
and Memorable
Women's History Month

**AL FAW PALACE
POST OFFICE**
APO AE 09342
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Wed. 2 - 8 p.m.
Sun. 2 - 8 p.m.
Services Offered: Money Orders, Stamp Purchase, Mailing of Letters and packages.
Cash only please. We do not accept P.O.s, checks, credit or debit cards.
Contact Camp Victory Main Post Office for any questions. DSN 318-822-2934 or DSN 318-822-4894

Talent Search
Do you have a talent that deserves recognition? Male /Female !
Let us be the Judge of that Last opportunity
Final Auditions 10th-11th March 2006
3 to 5 p.m. auditions will be held
At 22nd SIG BDE CNOCS BLDG 43
(Follow the signs inside)
Selected personnel will perform and compete for prizes
in the 2006 Women's History Month Talent Competition
For additional information contact, email Staff Sgt. Jayson Sims
at jayson.sims@iraq.centcom.mil or Sgt. 1st Class Marjorie Irby
at marjorie.irby@iraq.centcom.mil, DSN 822-4712.

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Lt Col Kennington
robert.kennington@iraq.centcom.mil
318-822-5419

Master Sgt. Johnson
michael.johnson@iraq.centcom.mil
318-822-5317

DANTES/CLEP/EXCELSIOR NOW AVAILABLE

SEE YOUR CAMP VICTORY
EDUCATION CENTER
Bldg 27B
E-mail Staff Sgt. Henney at
larry.henney@iraq.centcom.mil

KRAV MAGA SELF DEFENSE AND FITNESS

Camp Victory Gym
SUNDAYS - 8 - 9 P.M.



WHAT TO WEAR: COMFORTABLE CLOTHES AND SNEAKERS
WHAT TO EXPECT: PRACTICAL, REAL LIFE SELF DEFENSE AND A GREAT WORKOUT
CONTACT: EVAN SMITH,
EVAN.SMITH@IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL



Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to brian.anderson@iraq.centcom.mil. We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

DRIVE SAFELY !!

This driver was wearing his seat belt, driving within the speed limit and he was in his proper lane.



The driver of this vehicle had his life tragically altered by a reckless driver.

Don't be the OTHER driver!!

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
MNC-I Command Info Chief: 1st Class Laurence R. Lang
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